

## ABSTRACT

The method for preserving a catalyst of the present invention is characterized in that, in a process for continuously producing an objective  
5 product by a vapor phase oxidation reaction using a phosphorus-molybdenum-vanadium catalyst containing phosphorus, molybdenum and vanadium, the phosphorus-molybdenum-vanadium catalyst retained in a reactor is maintained under a condition of a water content of 30 mg or less per 1 g of catalyst dry weight, before the start of the reaction or during the  
10 stop of the reaction. By this, deterioration of the catalyst retained in the reactor can be simply prevented.